

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Appn. No.: 10/667,500

IN THE DRAWING:

Applicant submits herewith a replacement drawing sheet containing a formal drawing of Fig. 1 labeled “Prior Art”.

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REMARKS

Applicant adds new claims 17-20; therefore, claims 1-20 are now pending in this application.

Applicant amends the specification to correct minor typographical errors and to ensure that element 160 of Fig. 3 is references in the specification. Also, Applicant amends claims 1 and 9 more clearly to recite the features of the embodiments claimed therein and to remove unnecessary details. In this regard Applicant notes the addition of the dependent claims 17 and 18. Applicant submits that the amendments to claims 1 and 9 are merely clarifying amendments that do not narrow (but in some respects broaden) the scope of the original claims. No estoppel is created.

With regard to the Examiner's objection to the drawing, Applicant submits herewith a corrected drawing figure labeling Fig. 1 as "Prior Art".

With regard to the Examiner's objection to the title, Applicant amends the title as set forth above.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-3, 7-11 and 15-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,875,110 to Kazama et al. (Kazama); and claims 4-6 and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kazama.

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections as follows.

Applicant's independent claim 1 provides a head drum assembly comprising a unique combination of features, including, *inter alia*, a rotary drum comprising an inner surface facing the shaft of the assembly and an outer circumferential surface opposite to the inner surface, and a rotor case directly bonded to the outer circumferential surface of the rotary drum (see Applicant's claim 1). On the other hand, Applicant's independent claim 9 provides a method for manufacturing a head drum assembly comprising a unique combination of method steps,

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including, *inter alia*, bonding a rotor case of the motor rotor directly to the outer circumferential surface of the rotary drum whose inner surface faces the shaft of the assembly.

Contrary to the Examiner's analysis, Kazama does not disclose, teach, or even remotely suggest such unique combinations of features or method steps. In particular, Kazama discloses a conventional rotary head apparatus with motor magnet and yoke surrounding motor stator coil where:

[A] center shaft 1 is fixedly mounted in the center of the bottom surface of a lower drum 3 by force fitting or the like. An upper drum 2 is fixedly mounted through a holding piece 10 on the upper part of the shaft 1 with a given distance between it and the lower drum 3. Incorporated within the intermediary space between the upper and lower drums 2 and 3 is a magnetic head driving unit including a head mounting member 78 having magnetic heads 8 and 8' mounted on the outer peripheral portion thereof, a rotary member 75, a rotary sleeve 4, a driving motor, a rotary transformer, etc. The rotary sleeve 4 includes bearings 5 and 5' which are respectively provided at its central upper and lower ends and it is rotatably fitted on the shaft 1 through the bearings 5 and 5'. ***The rotary member 75 is fastened to the upper end portion of the rotary sleeve 4 with screws 12. Also, the head mounting member 78 and a motor rotor (a rotor magnet 18 and a rotor yoke 19) are fixedly mounted on the rotary member 75.*** (*Id.*, col. 2, line 60 through col. 3, line 11, *emphasis added*; see also *Id.*, Fig. 1)

Thus, in contradistinction to Applicant's claims 1 and 9, Kazama does not disclose, teach or suggest bonding a rotor case directly to the outer circumferential surface of the rotary drum whose inner surface faces the shaft. Instead, in Kazama, rotor yoke 19 of the motor rotor is fixedly mounted on rotary member 75 which is fastened with screw 12 to the upper end portion of the rotary sleeve 4 whose inner surface faces center shaft 1 (*see Id.*, Fig. 1).

Accordingly, Applicant's independent claims 1 and 9, as well as the dependent claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 10, 11, 15 and 16 (which incorporate all the novel and unobvious features of their respective base claims 1 and 9), are not anticipated by (i.e., are not readable on) Kazama at least

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for these reasons. Likewise, Applicant's dependent claims 4-6 and 12-14 would not have been obvious from Kazama at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to their respective base claims 1 and 9.

Finally, with regard to the newly added independent claims 19 and 20, Applicant respectfully submits that Kazama (or any of the cited prior art references) does not disclose, teach or suggest at least the features, or the method steps, of sequentially stacking on a fixed drum a magnetic yoke and a stator coil with a substantially constant gap maintained between the magnetic yoke and the stator coil (see Applicant's claim 19 and 20). That is, noting the Examiner's comments with regard to claims 2 and 10 (see Office Action, page 10), Applicant submits that in Kazama, yoke 22 and coil 21 are not sequentially mounted on a fixed drum which is fixedly mounting onto shaft 1. Instead, Kazama discloses that

Attached to the lower end portion of the rotary sleeve 4 with screws 23 is a yoke 22 having an FG magnet 100 and a head position detecting magnet (TACH magnet) 50 fixedly mounted thereon. The magnetic poles of the rotor magnet 18 are arranged opposite to the yoke 22 thereby forming a motor magnetic circuit therebetween. A torus stator coil 21 is disposed between the rotor magnet 18 and the yoke 22. The stator coil 21 is fastened at its outer peripheral portion to the inner side walls of the lower drum 3 with screws 12. (Id., col. 3, lines 16-23, emphasis added; see also Id., Fig. 1)

Thus, Applicant's independent claims 19 and 20 are patentable over the prior art of record.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application with claim 1-20 are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 18-2220. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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